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## **Ein Brief aus Setschan**

### **A Letter from Setschan**

The Peter Schulz family migrated from Setschan and Josefsdorf to North Dakota in 1903 via Canada. They eventually settled in the daughter colony of Glendive Montana. Glendive, in Eastern Montana, was located where the Northern Pacific Railroad crosses the Yellowstone River. Many Banaters in Glendive worked for the railroad. This family is remarkable for the close contact its descendants have continuously maintained with the Banat and Banater relatives for over 100 years. Among the hand-me-down family papers still in the possession of descendants was a copy of a letter written in 1938, which follows, by Heinrich Schulz to his brother Peter in America and which illustrates a strong sense of family history.

24 January 1938  
Setschan

The immigration of our German ancestors in 1769

They came from Nürnberg which is in the Black Forest of Germany. They came by boat on the Danube through Vienna and Budapest. In Vienna the necessary documents were acquired at the revenue office. In them the areas were listed as the Banat, where three of the towns of Sollos, Heifeld and Harzfeld were founded. The Schulz family settled in Sollos[Nakodorf]. The names of my father's parents were Michael Schulz and Margaret Grebeltinger[Grabeldinger]. My father was born in Sollos on July 31, 1827 and when grown went in search of a better paying job as a hired man and that is how he came to Setschan.

I do not know the first place where he worked, but the last was at Klos Rawer's. In the meantime he became acquainted with our mother. On October 13, 1848, he got his

baptismal certificate from Nakodorf and on January 11, 1852, the wedding took place before the deacon, Father John Bareisz. The bride's name was Anna Eiszler, born in Setschan on March 29, 1833. Her parents were Lorenz Eiszler and Elisabeth Rach. Together they worked for another year at Rawers.

The boss's name was Retinger, Anna Eisler had one sister, Margaret, who was married to Josef Nizner in Zichydorf. She is now dead.

John Schulz had two stepbrothers, Josef and Heinrich. Josef died on October 31, 1885 in the Menseri steam mill and was buried in the afternoon of All Saints Day. Josef had two sons and a daughter who was married to a young man from Weisskirchen, Thomas Lenhart, and died in Dickinson, North Dakota. The two boys were carpenters. Josef died in New York and had two children, a girl and a boy who was a shoemaker. Jacob was foreman on the railroad in Modosch, died in Betschkerek and had three children, Rudolf, Matt and a girl whom you met in Budapest. Rudolf is a tailor of women's clothing in Berlin and is President of the Tailors in the second district. Matt died. Rudolf has two children, Hermann 18 and Gretchen 27. Old Uncle Henry was my godfather. He had two boys and a daughter Veronika. The boys were named Josef and Peter. Josef was a Subasch with the 101 Regimental band, he became sick and died in 1910 in Brod of Slavonia. Peter lives in Kaptaland near Modosch. Veronika lives in Kathreinfeld, her first husband was Mathias Blasch and had two daughters, Wawi and Weti. Weti died and Wawi is married to Klaus (Adam Toni Roszl?) Roszl.

In 1860 my parents took over Lorenz Eiszler's house where we still live. In the meantime they had children. John born in 1855, Peter in 1857, Nani in 1860. Nani was married to Josef Gerger, a blacksmith in Hobsenitz[Offsentza]. Henry was born in 1865. In the year 1868 the emigration to Elisenhain took place---a new settlement. My parents went there with their five children and built a new house, No 9, the second house from the village dike. On the other side of the dike was the cemetery where a brother and a sister, Valentin and Christina, are buried. Every settler received 10 Joch land and we acquired another 5 for cultivation from a widow from Becskerek named Guschin Lujza. My father was also manager of a horse mill. The owner lived in Esseg.

Uncle Paul was born December 22, 1873. In 1876, just before Lent, my father went to Setschan in order to sell the house, but he came to no agreement with the buyers and came back to Elisenhain. On April 6 we really needed that house. During the entire month of March there was high water and finally on April 6, a hole was torn out of the dike. The village was at once flooded. The water started coming into the village at 10 in the morning and in the afternoon the houses were destroyed one after the other. The day before, we had moved our possessions to the other side of the dike.

I was sent to Lugaschfal with a cow and four hogs. I was 11 years old. Some Romanians mercifully took me in and took care of me. They put the livestock in the barn, cleaned the snow off me, and then took me into the house. They were just at supper---they gave me a plate of soup and two palacinkas. I was very grateful to them for it. Then they placed me on a bench near the stove, where I spent the night. Early in the morning I wanted to

continue driving the livestock through the snow, but the man would not allow me to do so, and at 9:00 that morning my father came back from Etschka with the wagon on his way to Lugaschfal.

We tied the cow to the wagon and drove the hogs to Etschka and on the same day to Lazarfeld.

The next day we went to Setschan to our old house where we once again made our home. Stefan died as a schoolboy and in 1880 I went to Pantschowa as an apprentice to shoemaker, Josef Schwartz, until 1883. After that I worked as hired help then went home. Later I left home with Klaus Kremer whose father was a hat maker. It took us two days to reach Temeswar---in those days there was no railroad. There we got work, but not for long. Then we loaded a wagon with flour and each received a florin.

Then we went to Arad----no work there; then to Radna, also none. Then over the Maros bridge to Lippa where we found some work. From there to Facset, where I stayed a year, and from there to Belentz. On September 30 my father died and I went home to help my mother finish the tobacco. Then I worked in Setschan with Josef Kathrein and Peter Ernst until my years as journeyman were over. On Oct 1, 1887 I enlisted as a reservist until Dec 1, 1887. When we had finished our basic training they let us go home. On April 4, 1888 we were inducted into service at Weisskirchen for a period of three years. From there I went to Vienna until Oct 1, 1890. Then I was discharged.

My wedding took place on May 18, 1891 and the bride was Barbara Scharting from Josefsdorf. We remained there for six days when we went to Setschan where we have lived ever since. In 1895 we took over the home place. Then I worked with a drilling company, drilling artesian wells. In 1896 I got my license and again worked as a shoemaker. The first apprentice was Hans Fulop. The second was a Serb, Stowo from Neusin. The third was Fulop Bisz of Georgshausen. The lads Jacob Marian, Mathias Stumpf and Peter Kaufmann. And then there was nothing until after the war. On January 21, 1919 Hans married Katharina Engelmann. On January 11, 1921 Lisi married Karl Kaufmann and they emigrated to Canada in May of 1925. Wenz was married to Anna Engelmann and they went to Canada on June 17, 1929. Gertrude married Peter Bauer in 1935 and they emigrated to Canada in 1949. [The year 1949 must be an error unless the date of the letter, 1938, is incorrect.]

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